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IN MEN AND SUPPLIES

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NORTH CAROLINA'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE CONFEDERACY  
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*By miss Norma Bell*

"Gather the sacred dust  
Of the warriors tried and true,  
Who bore the flag of the Nation's trust  
And fell in a cause, though lost, still just,  
And died for me and you."

To a North Carolinian her part in the War between the States seems so natural that we quite take it for granted, but, to any who do not know her traditions nor her staying qualities, her part seems well nigh impossible. The descendants of the men who had followed Bruce in Scotland had hewn out for themselves a home in the wilderness of the Province of Carolina. They defended their homes with their blood at Kings Mountain, and Guilford Court House, not to mention the many other battles of the Revolution in which they participated. The same men who had written the declaration of freedom from the British crown were not men to be trampled on. Then the very air of North Carolina must produce soldiers for here roamed the Tuscaroras, the most feared of the Indian tribes, and from here in our own day came the boys who broke the Hindenburg line.

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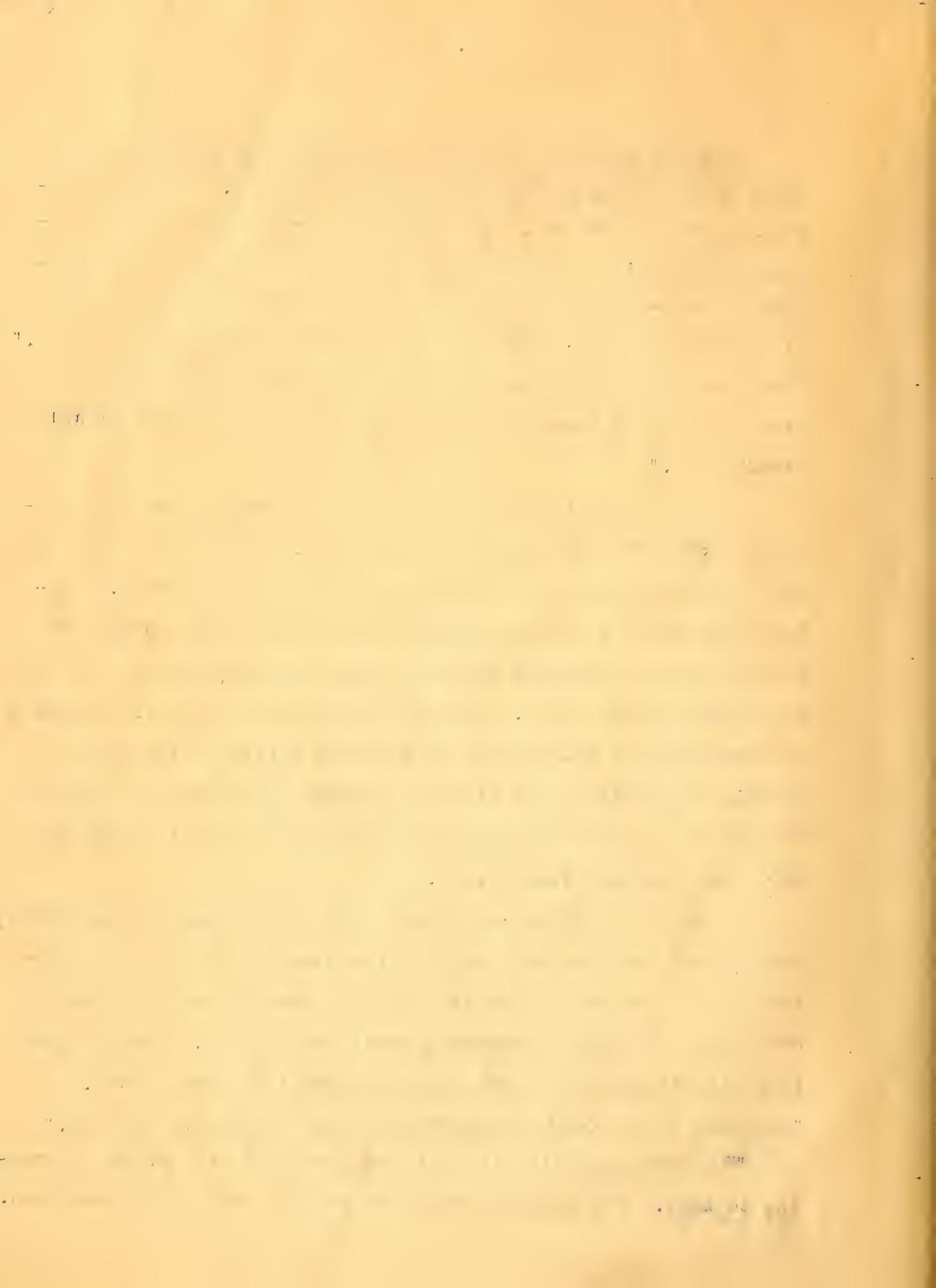
NORTH CAROLINA'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE CONFEDERACY  
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North Carolina was slow in severing her tie with the Union since she wished to be sure she was right. But when Lincoln called for troops to put down the so-called rebellion Governor Ellis said, "I regard the levying of troops for the purpose of subjugation of the states of the South as a violation of the Constitution. You can get no troops from North Carolina." The Union flag was replaced by the traditional state flag, a pine tree with a rattle snake at its feet and the motto, "Don't Tread on Me."

At the beginning of the war North Carolina had a population of 629,942 with 115,000 of them voters, and she sent to the war 125,000 men and boys, <sup>who</sup> became the bravest of the brave. Captain Ashe after a careful examination of the records says that North Carolina furnished quite a number more troops than did any other Confederate state. From the United States official records we learn that of this number 14,452 were killed, 5,151 died of wounds, 20,602 died from disease, a total of 40,305, or a larger number than is given for any other state, and this is doubtless 1000 less than she really lost.

While the State furnished such a large number of soldiers, she allowed the honors to be in a large number given to her sister states, due not to her inability to furnish worthy officers but to her modesty in demanding their recognition. However here is a list taken from the Wilmington Journal of April, 1867. "Generals of the Confederate States Army from North Carolina."

"We think this list is quite complete and will prove interesting to many. The counties refer to those in which they were born.



North Carolina is proud of her jewels:

General Braxton Bragg, of Warren; Lt. Gen. Leonidas Polk, of killed at Missionary Ridge; Lt. Gen. Theophilus Holmes, of Sampson; Lt. Gen. D. H. Hill, of South Carolina, a citizen of Mecklenburg.

Major General W.D. Pendleton, of Edgecombe, died of wounds received at Gettysburg; Maj. Gen. Robert Ransom, of Warren; Maj. Gen. W.W. Loring, of New Hanover; Maj. Gen. C.M. Wilcox, of Greene; Maj. Gen. R. F. Hoke, of Lincoln, wounded at Fredericksburg; Maj. Gen. S.D. Ramseur, of Lincoln, killed in the Valley of Virginia; Maj. Gen. Grimes, of Beaufort.

Brig. Gen. L. O'B. Branch, of Halifax, killed at Sharpsburg; Brig. Gen. G. B. Anderson, of Orange, died of wounds received at Sharpsburg; Brig. Gen. J. J. Pettigrew, of Tyrrell, killed at Falling Waters; Brig. Gen. James B. Gordon, of Wilkes, killed near Richmond, Virginia; Brig. Gen. Junius Daniel, of Halifax, killed at Spotsylvania Court House; Brig. Gen. Richard C. Gatlin, of Lenoir; Brig. Gen. L.S. Baker, of Hertford, wounded at Culpepper Court House; Brig. Gen. M. W. Ransom of Warren; Brig. Gen. Gabriel Raines, of Craven; Brig. Gen. James G. Martin, of Pasquotank; Brig. Gen. A.M. Scales, of Rockingham, wounded at Gettysburg; Brig. Gen. T.L. Clingman, of Buncombe, wounded at Petersburg; Brig. Gen. J.H. Lane, of Virginia, citizen of Cabarrus, wounded at Cold Harbor; Brig. Gen. Rufus Barringer, of Cabarrus, wounded at Petersburg; Brig. Gen. R.B. Vance, of Buncombe; Brig. Gen. W.W. Kirkland, of Orange, wounded at Bethesda Church; Brig. Gen. Wm. McRae, of New Hanover; Brig. Gen. Robert Johnson, of Lincoln,

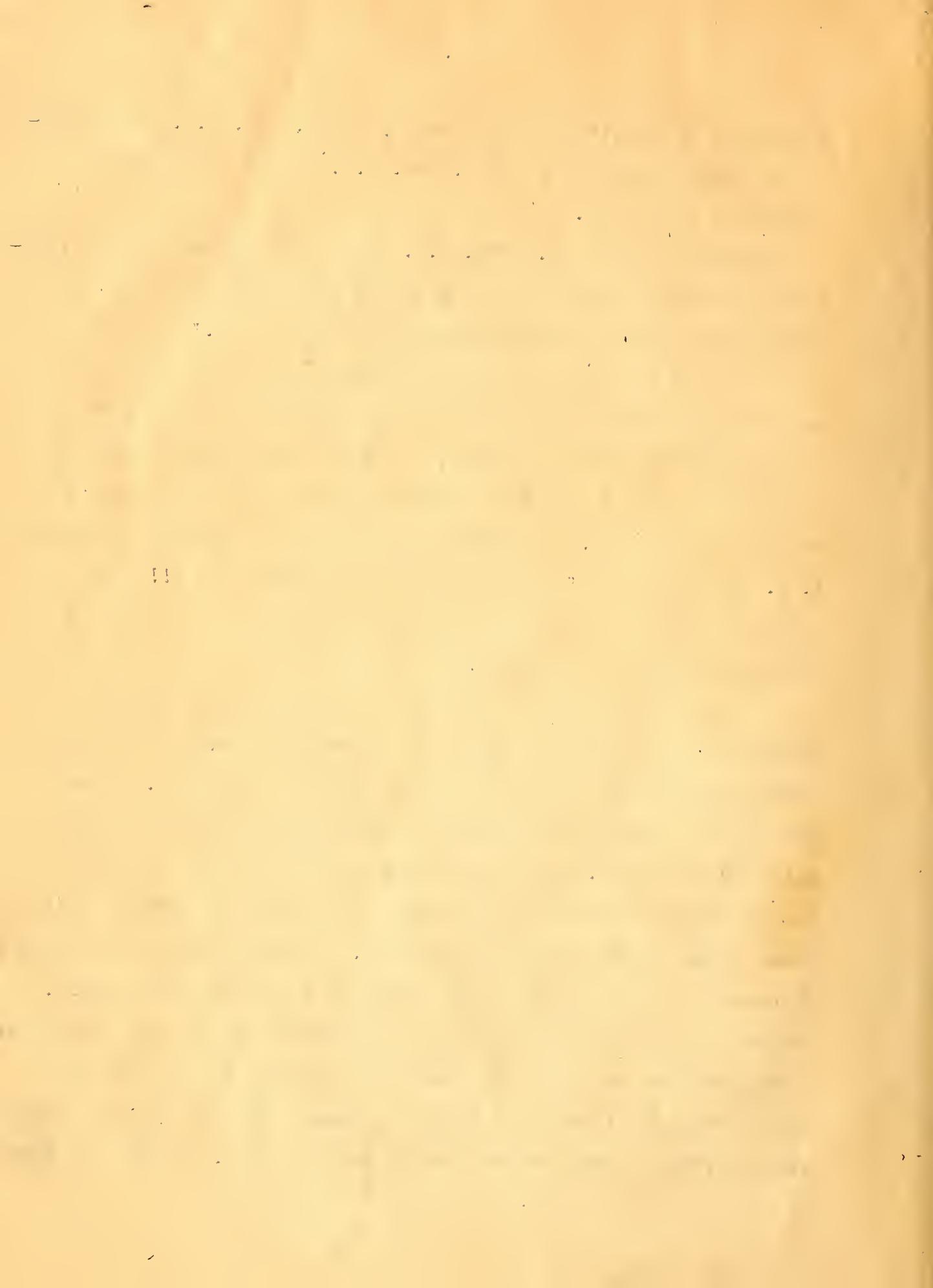


wounded at Spottsylvania Court House; Brig. Gen. W.R. Cox, wounded at Chancellorsville; Brig. Gen. W.G. Lewis, of Edgecombe wounded at Farmville.

Besides these, Brig. Gens. J.H. Cook, of Virginia, Alfred Iverson, of Georgia, were identified with North Carolina troops, the former particularly endearing himself to the State.\*

These were good and true officers and the battles won are in a sense due to them, but it is to the Private Soldier that we turn and make obeisance; it was a happy selection that the state made when she placed his statue atop of her monument to the gallant dead. When asked what soldiers you prefer, General A. P. Hill replied, "Unquestionably North Carolinians!! not that they are braver, where all are brave, but brave as the bravest and most obedient to command."

At the opening of hostilities Vice-President Stevens begged the Confederate Congress to assemble all available means, especially cotton, and send it to England to buy boats. They turned him a deaf ear, in spite of their need to bring in supplies from outside. It remained for North Carolina to realize the imperative need, and in 1862 she purchased the Advance and three other boats to run the blockade. Lacking these, the suffering at home and at the front would have been well nigh unendurable. The raw products of the state were shipped to England, thus enabling us to purchase and bring in cloth for uniforms for the officers, shoes, boots, oil cloth, oil tape, buttons, thread, paper, leather, dyes, scythes, iron, copper, nails, cotton cards. There is a record



of \$50,000 worth of medicine brought in, which of course was sorely needed.

With the home spun made by the faithful women, and the nicer material imported, North Carolina clothed not only her own soldiers but many others, and had on hand at the end of the war 92,000 suits of uniforms, also many blankets. At that time North Carolina was largely an agricultural state inhabited with people not afraid to work, so while her soldiers battled at the front the women and children aided the faithful slaves in tilling the soil and raising food for those at home and much that was used by the army. Major Hogg, who was head of the Ordnance Department, says that in 1865 more than half Lee's army was fed by North Carolina. Another record gives North Carolina credit for \$25,000 worth of supplies sent through Richmond during October, November, and December of 1864. We are not trying to show that North Carolina was giving of her abundance, for there was much suffering at home, but was dividing her all with others.

At the outbreak of hostilities there was no army for service and less equipment. The arsenal at Harper's Ferry had been destroyed, so Governor Ellis ordered the capture of the arsenal at Fayetteville, thus securing 37,000 stands of arms. 12,000 of these were sent to Virginia, a few to other states, and the remaining used by North Carolina troops. When these failed the old sporting rifles and fowling pieces at home sufficed to make game cocks of the youth. The arsenal at Fayetteville was used by the state for turning out other munitions as rapidly as possible.



The mineral resources of North Carolina were undeveloped; supplies of nitre, lead, & sulphur were needed, and there was scarce enough of iron to shoe the horses. Here again the Ad-Vance came to aid in securing supplies of these.

Governor Ellis secured the services of two Frenchmen to make swords and bayonets, and a small plant near Greensboro made about 2000 guns. A powder mill near Raleigh made about 4000 pounds of powder per week. The women of the state formed societies and made uniforms, haversacks, comforts, in some cases cutting up their carpets to supply these. The hand looms of the women aided the thirty-nine cotton factories and seven woolen mills in supplying cloth. Two paper mills made paper, and so the state tried to supply all demands. After the battle of Chickamauga Governor Vance sent 14,000 uniforms to General Longstreet, whose men were in rags. For supplies during the war the state spent \$26,363,663; some of this was sold to the Confederate Government, but much was donated. But supplying the material needs was not our greatest achievement, such was the part taken by our soldiers.

We have mentioned the number of soldiers furnished by North Carolina and their losses. As for bravery all were brave, but none exceeded these, which is proven by the record---- "First at Bethel, further to the front at Chickamauga and Gettysburg, and last at Appomattox." North Carolina troops were not alone at Bethel, but of the 1200 engaged 800 were from the state, and without them the battle would have not been fought. Brave Henry Wyatt of the Edgecombe Guards was the first soldier killed in battle. The soldier who fell nearest the enemy lines at Gettysburg wore



a North Carolina badge, likewise at Chickamauga. At Gettysburg the 26th North Carolina Regiment lost 86 killed and 502 wounded, which was the heaviest loss of any Regiment on either side during the war. Company F. of this Regiment lost every man except one. At Sharpsburg Company C. of the 14th North Carolina Regiment lost every man of its 45, and all except one at Chancellorsville.

While North Carolina did not take as prominent a part in the Navy as in the Army, yet here they did nobly. The three officers of highest rank were Captain J. W. Cooke, Commander John Moffitt, and Lieutenant-Commander James Iredell Waddell. Captain Cooke superintended the building of his own boat, the Albemarle, which did splendid service until rammed in a battle with 7 Federal boats. She so damaged them that they left her unsunk, covered with scars and glory. Maffitt had command of the Florida, with which he seized many prizes, one valued at \$1,500,000. On the 19th of October, 1864, Captain James Waddell raised the Confederate flag over the Shenandoah off Funchal, and set sail for the Arctic Ocean. The Shenandoah wrought more havoc on commerce than any other vessel except the Alabama, and did not lower its flag until November, 1865, when it learned that <sup>the</sup> nation for which it stood was no more.

The last gun fired at Appomattox was ~~at~~ General Grimes command. The last Cavalry charge was by Robert's North Carolina brigade, and the last Artillery fire by a North Carolina battery. For a state so unprepared as North Carolina was at the beginning, <sup>of hostilities</sup> this record we feel sure exceeds that of any other people at any time.



"Does Victory fail ? enough for me,  
That I fall not to fame a stranger;  
His name shall roll with eternity,  
Who finds the foremost grave in Danger.

Sidney Lanier.









